

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /062 W

----- 109753

R 211420Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9661

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

SUNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJ: UK DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: USNATO 7097 (NOTAL)

MISSION FORWARDS TEXT OF JANUARY 20 LETTER FROM UK PERMREP TO SYG LUNS URGING THAT DPC ADHERE TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR CONSULTATION ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW. USDELMC POUCHED SACEUR AND SACLANT ASSESSMENTS TO WASHINGTON JANUARY 17. CM PLANS SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 31 TO FINALIZE ITS ASSESSMENT. INFORMAL LIAISON WITH IS INDICATES THAT DPC WILL MEET ON THIS SUBJECT FEBRUARY 7. MISSION COMMENT: IN BOTH MC AND DPC, ALLIES WILL LOOK TO US TO PARTICIPATE SUBSTANTIVELY, TAKING THE LEAD IN MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE REQUESTED REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. YOU MENTIONED TO ME ON TUESDAY THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MIGHT NOT COMPLETE THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE UK DEFENCE REVIEW UNTIL MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, AND THIS WOULD ONLY LEAVE FOUR WORKING DAYS IF THE DPC WERE TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK

BY THE END OF MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIME-TABLE WHICH MY AUTHORITIES HAD REQUESTED.

2. I HAVE NOW CONSULTED MY AUTHRORITIES. THE DATE OF 10 FEBRUARY WAS NOT SELECTED AT RANDOM BUT TO ALLOW MINISTERS TIME TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE COMMENTS OF THEIR ALLIES, REACH DECISIONS, FINALISE AND PUBLISH THE WHITE PAPER AND HAVE A DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE THE EASTER RECESS. MY AUTHORITIES ARE THEREFORE MOST CONCERNED THAT IT SHOULD ALREADY BE ASSUMED THAT THE TIMETABLE ACCEPTED AT THE DPC MEETING ON 3 DECEMBER WILL NOT BE MET. UNDER THIS TIMETABLE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WERE TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK BY 31 JANUARY AND A DPC MEETING WAS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK OF 3 FEBRUARY. MY AUTHORITIES RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT, BUT HOPE IT WILL BE COMPLETED BY 31 JANUARY AS PLANNED. MORE-OVER, THEY ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO KNOW THE REACTIONS AND COMMENTS OF THEIR ALLIES WHO WILL HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN VIEWS IN RECENT WEEKS. CAPITALS WILL ALSO HAVE RECEIVED THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE MNCS (WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE) AND WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

3. BEARING IN MIND THE PRIORITY OF MATTERS OF THIS KIND, MY AUTHORITIES HAVE INSTRUCTED ME TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT MEANS OF MEETING THE 10 FEBRUARY DEADLINE WILL BE FOUND, SO THAT BY THAT DATE MY GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A CLEAR AND FULL INDICATION OF WHAT THE ALLIANCE WISHES TO SAY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO HOLD A DPC MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF EITHER THURSADY, 6 FEBRUARY, OR FRIDAY, 7 DEBRUARY. EVEN ON THIS BASIS, I CAN SEE THAT THE FORMAL LETTER FROM YOURSELF TO MY GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT BE DESPATCHED UNTIL A FEW DAYS AFTER 10 FEBRUARY; BUT THIS DALAY, PROVIDED THAT IT WAS SHORT, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO MY AUTHORITIES.

4. I SHOULD ADD THAT MY AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT REQUESTED A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF NATO VIEWS, AND THERE IS NO NEED - AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS STAGE AT LEAST - FOR THE DPC TO DEVOTE TIME TO CONSIDERING ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE CONFIDENTIAL REACTION (INCLUDING ANY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE PLANNED RESOURCES) WHICH THE ALLIANCE WISHES TO CONVEY TO MY GOVERNMENT BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT MONTH.

5. I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO ALL OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE DPC, TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DEFENCE PLANNING AND POLICY.
END TEXT.BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO00286
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750188/abbrzhrt.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 7097 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK DEFENSE REVIEW
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006